STATE OF ALABAMA
REQUEST FOR PRPOSAL
IT SECURITY CONSULTING SERVICES

PROPOSAL QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

JUNE 20, 2003

The following questions and answers are related to the Request for Proposal for IT Security Consulting Services:

1. Provide background:
      a. Legacy systems size and mission
      b. Current business process adequacy
      c. Current system shortfalls
      d. State of security
      e. Planned modernization to meet future mission
      Answer: The State is interested in maintaining the integrity of all its IT assets. The primary concern is associated with threats to its network and processing infrastructure. The State is faced with limitations in its knowledge of intrusion detection, vulnerability testing, incident response and security management. While the State has taken significant steps to enhance its security capabilities, there continues to be a need to seek expert advice in security management.

2. Scope of services:
      a. Planned level of effort
      b. Prioritization of tasks
      Answer: The State is unable to provide any specific requirements at this time and the State does not make any specific commitment to number of hours. There is currently no prioritized list of tasks. Part of the services of the vendor will be to assist the State in determining those tasks essential to protect the integrity of the State's computing and networking assets and developing priorities.

3. What is considered the equivalent for the CISSP?
      Answer: The State would consider one or more security certifications such as Systems Security Certified Practitioner (SSCP), Symantec Certified Security Engineer (SCSE), TruSecure ICSA Practitioner Certification, Certified Information Systems Auditor (CISA), and others. The primary purpose of this requirement is to ensure the State is provided proven, certified security expertise under the contract.

4. Is this RFP just for the Department of Finance, or for the entire State of Alabama?
      Answer: The contract will be managed centrally by ISD. However, other State agencies may use the contract as well.

5. How is Information Technology and Information Security managed at the Department of Finance? Is it centralized/decentralized? Is there staff dedicated to Information Security Management?

Answer: Centralized within ISD. There is no dedicated staff other than in several different functional areas of the organization.

6. What are the types of Application Systems, Operating Systems, Database Management Systems, Network Devices, etc. in place at the Department of Finance?

Answer: The State has many different applications depending on the agency. The primary operating systems include OS/390, Microsoft NT, and MS Windows. Data based management systems include DB2, SQL, Oracle and MS Access. Network devices primarily include Cisco routers and switches.

7. The RFP states "proposals must disclose and include any and all fees, costs or expenses to be charged for the services described in the Scope of Services, Section 2. There is insufficient information in the RFP to scope the work effort related to the described services. Does the State want typical fee ranges associated with the types of services?

Answer: Yes

8. Can the State provide additional information on the decision criteria that will be used to evaluate proposals and select a vendor?

Answer: The evaluation will take into consideration the qualification, experience and price quotes of the vendor to determine the best value for the State.

9. Will the State select multiple vendors under this request for proposal, or one preferred provider?

Answer: The State wishes to have one preferred vendor.

10. When does the State expect to make an award?

Answer: The State expects to make an award within 30 days of response.

11. When would the IT security services contract commence?

Answer: The contract would commence within 30 days after approval by the Legislative Contract Review Committee.

12. What is the estimated quantity of IT security service hours (level of effort) that the State is expecting to receive from the Vendor selected under this request for proposal, during the first year of the contract?

Answer: The State is unable to provide any specific requirements at this time and the State does not make any specific commitment to number of hours.

13. Could you describe some of the specific security projects that the State would expect the Vendor, selected under this request for proposal, to manage and/or support?

Answer: Possible projects are included within the Scope of Services defined in the Request for Proposal.